

ZABO SYSTEM OF FARMING.



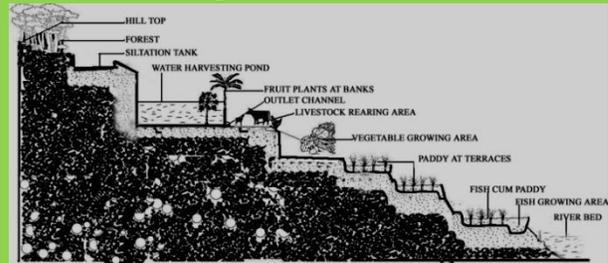
The word “Zabo” means impoundment of water. “Zabo” is an indigenous farming system practiced largely in Phek district of Nagaland. Zabo is also known as “Dzüdü” or “Ruza” system in other parts of the district. It has a combination of forest, horticulture, agriculture, fishery and animal husbandry with well-founded soil and water conservation base on one hill. It has protected forest land towards the top of hill, water harvesting tanks in the middle and cattle yard and paddy fields beneath.

Kikruma located at an altitude of 1270 meters, an old village situated in a rainshadowed area of Phek district of Nagaland is a surprise. Centuries ago, the village evolved a self-organizing system to take care of its water, forest and farm management. It involves the preservation of



forests on the hill tops as they are the catchment for the water. At the next level are the ponds dug out to harvest rainwater, which is brought there through small channels. These channels are even dug

concrete roads. They serve as reservoirs with their bottom and sides rammed and compacted so as to reduce seepage. The stored water is passed through orchard plantation and then to livestock and it carries all dung and urine of the animals to the field below the slope which acts as manure to the paddy fields located beneath. These paddy fields are also used to rear fish, which can yield about 50-60 kg of fish per hectare as an additional output. The bunds of the ponds also support a huge variety of medicinal plants and herbs. The ponds are constructed in such a way that the distribution of water is uniform. Inlet channels are dug to carry water from one pond to the next.



It is generally practiced in land holdings of 2.0 to 2.5 ha. The catchment area is under permanent vegetation. Water body is approximately 0.2 ha area pond of 1.5 to 2.5 m depth (shallow) located below the catchment area with a suitable silt trap. The bottom and sides of the pond are rammed and compacted to reduce seepage losses. The water so stored is used during the lean period. And during summer it is let into the rice fields located in the lower region of the slope after which the water ultimately reaches the river basin.

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